

# WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

## FOR ROCK/SOUTHWESTERN WISCONSIN COUNTIES

### AUGUST 2001



## Higher Unemployment Rates

### A note to subscribers of the Rock/Southwestern Wisconsin Employment Review/Labor Market Review:

The new *Workforce Observations for Rock/Southwestern Wisconsin Counties* supercedes the *Employment Review/Labor Market Review* as a current and timely labor market information source for the six county Southwest Wisconsin region. The data reported in the new version will be for the month previous to the publication date, e.g., this August 2001 issue will report local area data for the month of July 2001. In the previous format, the reported data lagged two calendar months. We are confident that this will serve as a more timely compendium of local labor market and other economic information.

*Workforce Observations* condenses from four pages to a two-page format. Volume and issue number will no longer be contained as the review will be labeled only by month and year. The most current labor force and non-farm wage and salary employment figures will continue to be displayed comparing month-ago and year-ago figures. Analysis of the current labor market will be also be offered along with the data. This will be mailed roughly the last week of every month within days of the official release of the labor force data.

### July Labor Scene

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the **Janesville/Beloit Metropolitan Area** increased by 1.3 percent in July, resting at 6.4 percent. The present rate is one percent higher than the July 2000 rate of 5.4 percent.

The size of the increase in the Janesville/Beloit Metro rate was due to several factors. For two weeks in July General Motors closes the Janesville plant to clean and to change over to the new model year. Just as important is the ripple effect that has on other employers in the area. Area employers that produce products for use in the manufacturing process at General Motors also layoff workers because General Motors does not need goods and materials during the annual shutdown.

Seasonal unemployment rates at both the state and national level remained unchanged in July but were up as compared to the same month last year. Increases in the Janesville/Beloit Metro unemployment rate as compared to last year have been more dramatic than changes at the state or national level largely because of Rock County's industrial base. Layoffs have been primarily in the manufacturing sector this year. Rock County's strength in manufacturing has led to a disproportionate share of layoffs and unemployment in the county.

The unadjusted unemployment rate for the six county Southwest Wisconsin area is up 0.5 percentage points as compared to last July. The increase in unemployment in Southwest Wisconsin reflects what is occurring in the rest of the state only the changes are somewhat less dramatic here in the Southwest. State-wide, unadjusted unemployment rates are up 0.7 percentage points over the year. Much of the increase in

unemployment statewide was related to a greater number of layoffs in manufacturing due to a decline in the demand for manufactured goods. Two Southwest Counties, Green and Richland have lower unemployment rates this July.

Two of the counties in Southwestern Wisconsin with high percentages of manufacturing employment and recent layoffs in the sector, Grant and Rock, are also posting unemployment rates much higher than were recorded in July 2000. On an

unadjusted basis, Grant's rate is 0.6 percentage points higher, and Rock's is 0.8 percentage points higher than in the same month a year ago.

Even with the recent reductions in manufacturing employment, the number of jobs in the region remains greater than one year ago and the number of employed residents is higher. Nonfarm employment increased by almost 1,200 over the year. Most of the gains were realized in trade and service industry employment.

<b>Labor Force Estimates (Seasonally Adjusted)</b>			
	Janesville-Beloit MSA	Wisconsin (000s)	United States (000s)
<b>Current month: July 2001</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	83,400	3,056.9	141,774
Employment	78,100	2,923.2	135,379
Unemployment	5,300	133.7	6,395
Unemployment rate	6.4%	4.4%	4.5%
<b>Change from June 2001</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	2,400	5.9	420
Employment	1,200	5.7	447
Unemployment	1,200	0.2	-27
Unemployment rate	1.3%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Change from July 2000</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	3,000	124.5	1,228
Employment	2,100	99.9	481
Unemployment	900	24.6	747
Unemployment rate	1.0%	0.7%	0.5%

*Note: All estimates are preliminary and based on place of residence.*

**Labor Force and Employment Estimates for Rock / Southwestern Wisconsin (*not seasonally adjusted*)**

**July 2001**

	Grant	Green	Iowa	Lafayette	Richland	Rock	Region	Wisconsin
<b>Civilian Labor Force*</b>	24,700	19,800	14,500	7,900	8,900	86,400	162,100	3,128,287
<b>Annual Percent Change</b>	<b>2.1%</b>	<b>3.9%</b>	<b>7.0%</b>	<b>6.7%</b>	<b>5.4%</b>	<b>5.1%</b>	<b>4.8%</b>	<b>4.1%</b>
Employed	23,600	19,000	14,000	7,500	8,600	79,200	151,800	2,990,451
Unemployed	1,200	800	400	400	300	7,300	10,400	137,836
Unemployment rate(%)	4.8%	4.0%	3.0%	4.6%	3.7%	8.4%	6.4%	4.4%

**Non-Farm Place of Work Employment Data**

<b>Total, all industries**</b>	17,950	15,590	11,100	3,580	5,950	72,550	126,720	2,855,600
<b>Annual Growth Rate:</b>	<b>-2.80%</b>	<b>0.69%</b>	<b>2.83%</b>	<b>0.61%</b>	<b>1.10%</b>	<b>1.64%</b>	<b>0.92%</b>	<b>0.03%</b>
Construction & Mining	940	570	640	140	250	3,420	5,970	141,200
Manufacturing	2,830	3,390	760	580	1,650	19,210	28,420	601,200
Durable	1,800	2,240	660	350	1,260	14,330	20,640	358,800
Nondurable	1,030	1,160	100	230	390	4,870	7,790	242,400
Trans & Public Utilities	560	430	350	200	150	3,190	4,880	134,400
Wholesale Trade	980	650	390	310	200	3,570	6,110	140,400
Retail Trade	3,600	4,080	5,400	580	1,370	14,140	29,170	504,300
FIRE	770	400	160	220	210	2,020	3,780	154,300
Services	4,000	4,150	1,920	410	1,010	18,410	29,900	797,100
Government	4,260	1,920	1,480	1,140	1,110	8,590	18,500	382,700

**Change from June 2001**

<b>Civilian Labor Force*</b>	-300	0	300	200	100	3,400	3,500	13,736
Employed	0	0	300	200	200	800	1,400	17,514
Unemployed	-200	0	-100	0	-100	2,700	2,300	-3,778
Unemployment rate(%)	-0.8%	-0.1%	-0.4%	-0.7%	-0.7%	2.8%	1.3%	-0.1%
<b>Total, all industries**</b>	-480	-340	-20	10	-70	-560	-1,460	-26,700
Construction & Mining	20	20	0	0	10	250	310	3,900
Manufacturing	-90	-260	30	10	-10	30	-290	1,700
Durable	-60	-230	30	0	-30	-30	-310	-2,500
Nondurable	-30	-20	0	0	20	50	30	4,100
Trans & Public Utilities	-30	30	-10	0	-30	-60	-80	-3,300
Wholesale Trade	110	0	-10	0	0	-10	100	1,000
Retail Trade	60	20	110	-20	-30	-80	60	-1,400
FIRE	0	10	0	0	10	30	40	1,000
Services	-40	40	-20	0	0	-390	-410	700
Government	-510	-190	-120	20	-30	-350	-1,180	-30,200

**Change from July 2000**

<b>Civilian Labor Force*</b>	500	800	1,000	500	500	4,200	7,300	124,357
Employed	400	800	800	400	500	3,200	6,100	98,974
Unemployed	200	0	100	100	0	1,100	1,300	25,383
Unemployment rate(%)	0.6%	-0.4%	0.4%	0.5%	-0.1%	0.8%	0.5%	0.7%
<b>Total, all industries**</b>	-520	110	300	20	60	1,170	1,150	900
Construction & Mining	20	10	10	10	10	-40	20	100
Manufacturing	-620	-300	-20	-40	-90	-40	-1,110	-24,800
Durable	-640	-160	-10	-60	-70	260	-670	-19,700
Nondurable	20	-140	-10	10	-20	-310	-430	-5,000
Trans & Public Utilities	-30	0	0	-10	20	10	-10	2,100
Wholesale Trade	-100	-50	10	20	0	80	-20	-700
Retail Trade	90	190	-20	0	30	290	580	3,400
FIRE	40	0	0	0	20	60	110	3,800
Services	90	160	200	0	50	960	1,460	15,000
Government	-20	120	100	40	40	-150	130	2,000

\* Includes participants residing in area. \*\* Includes employment with employers located in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted.  
Current month estimates are preliminary. Totals may not add due to rounding.

**Look for the most current Labor Market Information at: [WWW.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI](http://WWW.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI)**

Direct questions and comments to: **William Brockmiller, Labor Market Analyst**

La Crosse Job Center, 402 North 8th Street, La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601

608-785-9337 E-mail: [brockwi@dwd.state.wi.us](mailto:brockwi@dwd.state.wi.us)